

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

HAZARD **A**LERT **L**IVE **T**OMORROW

SERIOUS COAL HAULAGE ACCIDENT WEATHER RELATED



On January 22, 2002, a serious accident occurred in Dickenson County when a loaded coal truck descending a steep grade from an underground mine encountered icy road conditions and slid out of control. The driver attempted to exit the vehicle and was caught between the cab step of the sliding truck and the road surface. The driver sustained life-threatening injuries to his left leg that resulted in amputation below the knee.

Best Practices for Winter Haulage Safety!!

- When freezing temperatures occur, more frequent examinations should be made to determine changing road conditions that can become hazardous for equipment operations.
- Mine management and equipment operators should pay careful attention to frozen haul roads and consider the grades of the roads to be traveled and the ability of the equipment to be operated safely.
- Mine roadways should be adequately graded and maintained to ensure effective drainage and reduce freezing hazards.
- Ice and snow should be removed from mine roadways and/or materials such as gravel, sand, and salt applied to improve traction and control hazards.
- Use wheel chains or other traction aids when snowy and icy weather conditions create road hazards.
- Travel speed should be appropriate for road conditions, grades, and type and size of vehicle being operated.
- Seat belts should be used at all times while the mobile equipment is in operation. Accident investigation history supports remaining inside a vehicle and wearing your seat belt as the best practice for avoiding serious injury during a vehicle accident!